



southern california dx club

May 2003

2003

INTERNATIONAL



NCDXC
SCDXC

DX CONVENTION

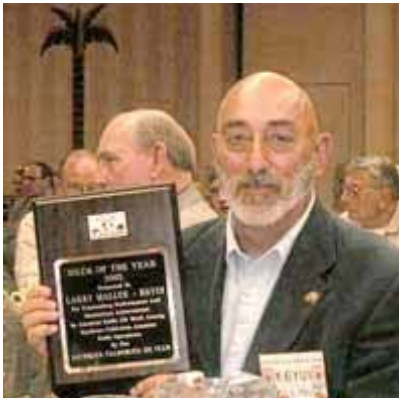
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA, USA

Soap Box— Words from our President



Thanks to the NCDXC for an outstanding job in putting on the 54th DX Convention. We all appreciated your hard work. And Congratulations to Larry Mallek, K6YUI the SCDXC 2002 DXer of the Year and to Bob "Bubba" Paquette, W6ZPL the 2002 Clipperton Award (Rookie of the Year) Winner.

73 de KG6OK



**Larry, K6YUI,
SCDXC DXer of the
Year**

**Bob, W6ZPL, SCDXC
"Rookie of the year."**



Voice of the Veep

First of all I would like to say, "What a great Convention!" While I missed the great lunch that Bruce from US Tower put together, I for the first time went on the Wild Women adventure to the scenic and historic areas of Fresno. Yes, Fresno has some really interesting places to go. We went to an old historic home, some gardens and had a great lunch. Yes, I had a hard time not talking about amateur radio, but I did survive. We even got some of the ladies from the north to attend and enjoy their stay in Visalia.



Carl said that the food was delicious at US Tower and the comradely among all fellow hams was at best terrific.

Hope to see you all at the "Anchor's Away at the June meeting and then I would like to see you all show up for the Picnic on June 21 at approximately 10:30ish to 11:00ish. We will have a terrific Lunch and as always, bring a side dish. If you could give me a call and let me know (those that are coming) what they might be bringing so I can make suggestions for other dishes. We will have some great prizes and remember the big prize. FT857....\$10 a square, you must pay for the square when you pick it. The board will be at the June Meeting. Come join us at the picnic.

73 and 88s Cathy K6VC

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held June 12, 2003 at the Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.

Please do not park in the school lot.

WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL ANCHORS AWAY AUCTION

See ya there!

MEETING NOTES

de the secretary



The April meeting was another fun and educational experience. Dick Norton, N6AA was kind enough to give us some insight into life outside of zone 3. In his quest to work at least one contest from each of the 40 CQ zones, which he accomplished in 2002 Dick has had a glimpse

into the lives of the people as well as workings of governments in the various countries he has visited. His operating and living with local hams has let him see and experience countries in a way no tourist could. He has experienced everything from having to hide his valuables in a sack tucked in to the dash of a truck to avoid being robbed to meeting with King Hussein, JY1 (sk).

This was probably the best raffle we have had in six months. Carl, WU6D "Wild Woman" and OM (or maybe XYL) of "Lucky" won the first prize in the form of a Heil BM-10-4 headset, Gary, NY6Y won a Bencher Low Pass Filter. Last but most important Jim, N6DHz won a gift certificate to HRO (now you know why it was such a great raffle).

Most of us will be heading for the 54th annual International DX Convention in Visalia so there will not be a regular

meeting in May. You may remember last year a Bob, W6ZPL running around the convention with a sign that said "Hi Andy" getting his picture taken with as many of you as he could. I have been assured that this year Bob will leave the sign at home, however he will be bringing the real thing. Andy, EU7SA will be joining us all the way from his home in Belarus. Andy is a club member so when you spot him be sure to say "Hi Andy".



Annual Picnic in the Park

June 21 will be the date for the annual SCDXC picnic. Starting time will be 11:00 A. M.

The picnic will be held again at Woodley Park, Grove 1, in Van Nuys.

From the south exit the 405 Fwy at Burbank, this is the first exit past the 101 Fwy. Turn left (West) onto Burbank travel about 3/4 of a mile to Woodley Ave. Turn Right at the stop light and go north about 3/4 of a mile. The entrance to the picnic area and parking lot will be on the right (East) side and is just north of the entrance to the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.

Visalia 2004 Convention Dates

The Southern California DX Club is proud to announce that the 55th Annual International DX Convention Will be held at The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center Visalia.

The dates of the event have been set for April 23, 24 & 25 2004.

The Holiday Inn will begin taking reservations May 15, 2003 at 9:00am Pacific Time (1600z). Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-465-4329 (US) or DX stations can call 559-651-5000 or Fax: 559-651-5014. Online reservation information can be found at www.visaliaholidayinn.com.

Propagation May 2003

by Shel, W6EL



These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be

active during the coming month. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 125, corresponding to a sunspot number of 81, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

FO French Polynesia -
5/3 to 5/25 -
Beam 214 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1617/0328
80: 0600-1200.
40: 0400-1300.
20: 0200-1500.
15: 1600-0930.
10: 1830-0600.

ZK1 South Cook -
5-15 to 5/26 -
Beam 222 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1703/0403
80: 0600-1230.
40: 0430-1300.
20: 0030-1300.
15: 1700-2030 and 2200-0800.

NH0 Mariana Islands -
5/23 to 5/26 -
Beam 285 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1953/0837
80: 1100-1200.

40: 0930-1230.
20: 0700-1500.
15: 0330-0900 and 1500-1600.

3D2 Fiji -
5/26 to 5/30 -
Beam 240 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1832/0535
80: 0730-1230.
40: 0600-1330.
20: 0400-1430.
15: 0100-0930 and 1800-1900.
10: 2130-2400 and 0100-0230.

ZA Albania -
5/29 to 6/3 -
Beam 30 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0317/1759
20: 0130-0500.

SV9 Crete -
5/29 to 6/12 -
Beam 30 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0312/1725
20: 0030-0600.

Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

Answer to last months Puzzle:

Bidding either \$10 or \$9.99 guarantees that you won't overpay, since if you win, the total payout is \$10 + \$10 or \$9.99 + \$9.99.

The \$9.99 bid is superior, unless the other bid is less than \$9.99. In that case the \$9.99 bid costs you a penny less.



SPAM ATTACK



Not the Hormel "Spiced Ham" we have enjoyed for years. But the troublesome junk mail we are receiving on the internet. This is QRM we do not need.

You can help rid the internet of this disease. Never send e-mail on OPEN lists. ALWAYS use BLIND CARBON COPY, Bcc. Check out GOOGLE—search for SPAM and you will get pounds of suggestions.

I have found that the major source of Spam at my QTH is the ARRL.NET forwarding service. I have written them a number of e-mails without any luck. I suggest they need MORE COMPLAINTS before they will filter their system. Write them!





54th International DX Convention - Visalia





DX IS!





Steve's Corner

DXing the Antipode – Heard Island

Antipode: – “A direct or diametrical opposite.” For DXers, it’s the spot on the planet, exactly opposite your QTH, connected by an infinite number of great circles via an uncertain bearing. Think of a great circle map with your QTH at the center. That outermost circle is your antipode, which you can reach at an equal distance by pointing in *any* direction. While there is always a precise antipode, the real world effects of trying to work it are easily noticed within the antipode’s proximity. Working the antipode can be difficult. As with all DXing, accessibility for operations and propagation are critical.



Examples: Pitcairn, VP6, and Qatar, A7. Ascension Island, ZD8 and the Solomons, H4. (ZD8TC commenting on a 6m QSO: “I almost fell off the chair when I heard the callsign H44PT. I worked Peter H44PT, my exact antipode!”) KH6 and ZS. JA and PY. Much of Europe has corresponding antipodes in the Pacific. That’s why so many Pacific DXpeditions pay attention to, and rightly so, conditions to Europe. Our eastern seaboard brethren’s antipode appears to be west of VK6 in Zone 29, squarely in the ocean. Pity. Southern California? It’s Heard Island, **VK0**, deep in zone 39 off the coast of Antarctica — remote, inhospitable, unpopulated and difficult to access. The perfect DX challenge!

The Operations: Heard island was first activated as VK3ACD/Antarctica in 1948. There were twelve or more operations over the ensuing years to 1963. Don Miller claimed to be there as **VK2ADY/0** in 1966. Here’s what the QSLs looked like:



In March 1969, W7ZFY and WB4HWP, from the crew of the US Coast Guard ship Southwind, operated as **VKÆWR**. Next was WA6EAM, as **VKÆHM/AXÆHM** from December 1969 to January 1970. F2JD is reported to have followed, also signing **VKÆHM**. Nothing then until March 1980 with activity from **VKÆRM** and then **VKÆSJ**. Most of these visits were for scientific mapping work and not radio. The aggregate of all of this activity wasn’t sustained enough to satisfy the ever increasing demands of the desiring.

In 1983, the largest operation to date occurred when K8CW and VK3DHF were active as **VK0CW** and **VK0HI** between January 21st and February 21st. They made 30K Q’s. **VK0CW** showed up on January 23 on 20m CW.



It seemed like all of the West Coast big guns were calling. I swept the TH6 in a circle and settled on the peak at 20 degrees. I split up another KHz from the pile and snagged him at 1531Z. He wasn’t on long and did not work many before disappearing. Was it real or Heard Island Slim? Either way, some of the “big guns” still had to wait a more few days! I got my insurance CW Q on 20m on the 28th at 0505Z. This time the signal peaked at 120 degrees. I had CW nailed! An SSB Q, which I did not covet, would be gravy. The morning of February 2nd, the telephone (the “packet” of those days) rang as I was eating breakfast, getting ready to go to the salt mine. It was my brother, Elliott, WA6TLA. “They’re on 20 SSB and easy.” I rushed to the rig and worked **VK0HI** on one call at 1511Z. (When you work DX, especially rare

DX, on one call, it can feel like you haven't really earned it — well *almost*.) Thanks bro! I think the beam heading was SE. I had worked our antipode with the beam in three completely different directions. W6SWM, just up the coast in Santa Barbara, said that he couldn't hear Heard when I worked it. Likewise, I couldn't hear the DX when stations in San Diego were getting through. A hundred miles or so made a significant difference!

In 1980 Jim Smith, VK9NS founded the Heard Island DX Association (HIDXA) with the goal of organizing a DXpedition to Heard. Jim and XYL Kristi, VK9NL, along with WA8MOA, VK0SJ and OE1LO arrived on Heard a few days after K8CW and VK3DHF had started operating. As **VK0JS** and **VK0YL**, the HIDXA made 14K Q's. I only heard them once — on 40m CW — but I never worked them. For a brief time there were two stations active from Heard!

Next came VK2BCC as **VK0CC** in October and November '85. VK2EBQ was active as **VK0DA** between December '86 and January '87 and VK3DHF was on again as **VK0HI** in December '87.

The last and most successful operation by far was in January 1997 when a carefully planned and well-supported effort put **VK0IR** on the air. They were very active — more than 80K Qs. In addition to 20 CW and SSB, I picked up band counters on 40m and 30m. Some of the deserving worked them on 80 and 160!



No matter where your QTH, when trying to work the antipode, try sweeping your antenna through 360 degrees. The peak you find may just surprise you!

73, Steve WB6RSE

Log Book of the World

Wayne Mills discussed the long anticipated software DXCC crediting program at the Visalia Convention.

Beta versions will be released later this month. It is anticipated that DXpeditions will be uploading to the database. At first current or recent operations will be uploaded and in due time this will be expanded to include older operations.

ARRL will soon publish the full operational details and we will be on the way to full use of this new system.

The Most Wanted

Which of the following do you still need?

Pos	Pref	Country
1	VU4	Andaman & Nicobar Is.
2	BS7	Scarborough Reef
3	VU7	Laccadive Is.
4	3YP	Peter I I.
5	FRJ	Juan de Nova, Europa
6	KP5	Desecheo I.
7	KP1	Navassa I.
8	YV0	Aves I.
9	7O	Yemen
10	FT8X	Kerguelen Is.
11	KH7K	Kure I.
12	P5	North Korea
13	ZS8	Marion Isl.
14	FT8W	Crozet I.
15	3YB	Bouvet
16	FRG	Glorioso Is.
17	ZL8	Kermadec Is.
18	VP8O	South Orkney Is.
19	3C0	Pagalu I.
20	VK0H	Heard I.
21	KH9	Wake I.
22	FT8Z	Amsterdam & St. Paul Is.
23	T33	Banaba Isl
24	XF4	Revilla Ggedo
25	KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Is.

E MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

If you change your e-mail address please let us know. Every month we have to phone or write members whose e-mails bounce. This delays your SCDXC Newsletter. We suggest you consider using the club e-mail forwarding service yourcall@scdxc.org. Contact the webmaster for information.

W6ZPL

A Visit With Bob "Bubba" Paquette

When you walk in to Bob's office in La Habra, CA, you wonder if this is a business or a Ham Shack; actually it's both. Bob's office is decked out with plenty of Ham gear for



HF through UHF. Among his equipment are a Yaesu FT-990, Ameritron AL-572 amp and Drake Tuner to cover HF. A Kenwood TM-742 handles the duty for 144/222/440. Antennas include a Cushcraft R7 vertical, homebrew 10m beam, and a homebrew 252ft trapped dipole. Oh and don't forget the computer with ILink where he keeps regular sched's with Andy, EU7SA (who, by the way, will be joining us at Visalia this year).

Some of you will remember Bob from his first SCDXC meeting when I introduced him as my friend whose cleaning lady threw out all his QSL cards. I can still hear the massive groan from the audience. Bob has recovered from this disaster and with help from a bunch of great DXers he was

able to get cards back from 90-95% of the stations he resent cards to.

Bob is one of the most enthusiastic DXers I have ever met. When he works a new one, you can hear him yipping and yahooing at my house a half-mile away. He is also a ham who doesn't like to be far from a radio. He has five (yes five) stations so he is always at a radio whenever the bands open. Besides his office station, he has his truck fitted with a Kenwood TS-50/AT-50 using Hamstick antennas and an Icom IC-2710 dual

bander. His motorhome sports a Kenwood TS-50, MFJ tuner and a High Sierra screwdriver antenna with a 20ft extension wire for 40m/80m when parked. The home QTH has a Kenwood TS-50 with a Titan DX antenna and an Icom IC-2710 dual bander. Last, but not least, his weekender at the Colorado river comes complete with a Yaesu FT-990/FL-2100B amp, Ten-Tec tuner and a palm tree dipole.

Bob is a regular at the meetings and club functions... except for the picnic when I forgot to pick him up and didn't realize it until three days later when he mentioned it to me; he hasn't let me forget it since. "So, next time you see him -- or work him -- say '73 from a fellow DXer."



A simple, but effective way to work the Ham Bands during slack hours at the factory!

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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FOR SALE:

Brand new Force 12 WARC 2/2/1 beam. One coax for 5 elements on 12, 17 and 30 meters. 27 lbs, 3.9 sq ft wind load. Force 12 B-1 balun included.

Assembled, tuned, never used. Cost \$545 at Visalia last year, asking \$345. Contact Chuck KN6H (310) 325-3184 or KN6H@arri.net.

BUY — SELL

The annual club anchors aweigh auction will take place at the June meeting.

Bring stuff.

Bring money

Take home new (to you) stuff.



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NEEDED

The SCDXC Newsletter needs you help. Please send in articles and photos. Almost every one has a story they can share and we would like to publish it.

Just send to the editor at k6exo@scdxc.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to club treasurer: Paul Lawrence, N6AV, 2986 Haddington Drive Los Angeles CA 90064

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____

SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC